***CITY OF BERTHA***

***REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BERTHA***

***HELD AT THE BERTHA COMMUNITY CENTER***

***May 9, 2022***

***Members Present:*** Mayor Olson, Members Hoffman, Nelson, Winkler & Captain

***Staff Present:*** Clerk Umland & Public Works Graba

***Guest Present:***  Brenda Roberts, Pete Wallner, Leona Bowman, Brian Yates, Amanda Hansen, Brent Lind, Caitlin Moore , Steve Kneisl, Mike Gaudette and Connie Trotter.

***Declaring a quorum, Mayor Olson called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.***

***3. Public Hearing – none scheduled***

***4. Communication Reports***

***A. Review the April Enterprise Reports – no comments***

***B. Public Safety Reports -***  grass rig is operational now. Mr. Wallner requested that the council accept a new volunteer on the department. Motion was made by Winkler, seconded by Member Captain approving Jordan Maland be added on the Bertha Fire Department roster. Carried.

Amanda Hansen gave a brief report on activities of the ambulance service. At this time, she would like to get a better commitment from out-of-town volunteers prior to renting an apartment.

**C. *Law Enforcement Report-*** Todd County Sheriff Department provided the council with the April activity report that summarizes the 25 calls received in their department: 1-animal complaint, 1 ATV complaint, 1-burgulary, 1-child abuse, 1-motor assist, 4-public assist, 1 school resource time, 1-traffic complaint, 6 traffic stops and 8 misc. calls.

***D. Public Works Report –*** Mr. Graba provided the council with his April activity report which summarizes work done within his department. His activity report for April included; Spring discharge started on 5/6/22, city park ready for summer, hydrants flushed, calibrated meters for well house and lift station.

***E. Clerk –*** Grove Security invoice for $650.00 was tabled at the April meeting. Mr. Graba understanding was it was a free 30 day trial. There was no agreement signed and didn’t realized they were going to charge for installation. Motion by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Olson to pay this invoice to Grove Security for $650.00. Carried.

***5. Unscheduled Public Appearance***

Steve Kneisl – owns 35 acres in city limits inquired about the process to get water/sewer installed to his property. He possibly has a developer interested in purchasing the property to build houses on. The council wants to have an engineer review it. Member Nelson suggested contacting a engineering firm to get more information . Mr. Kneisl is wanting to get rid of if because of high taxes and he can’t hunt the property.

Brent Lind expressed his feeling on the appearance of several properties in the city that need to be clean up. He felt the city should have mandatory garbage pickup. The council consensus was over the years there was no follow thru and hard to enforce the nuisance ordinance. Clerk Umland will contact the city attorney to see if owner of the property can be charge a fine.

***6. Consider the Consent Agenda-action required***

***Note:*** The Consent Agenda listed those items of business which are considered to be routine and/or which need no discussion. Consent items are acted upon by one motion. If discussion is desired by council, that item may be moved to an appropriate section of the regular agenda for discussion.

Mayor Olson asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to be made to the Consent Agenda. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Member Winkler to accept the consent agenda as presented. Carried. The consent agenda included the following:

1. Approval of the April 11, 2022 Regular Council Minutes , April 13, 2022 Board of Review Meeting Minutes and Minutes of the April 26th Special Kickoff Meeting for SCDP.
2. Approval of April Disbursements & Authorize Issuance in accordance with the list provided including all electronic payments plus April Check Nos. 90216-90222 in the amount of $5,701.48.
3. Review Bank Correspondence –Bank Statement & Investment Report
4. Approve sponsorship ad showing support of our local law enforcement and EMS for $35.00 to Independent News Herald.
5. Consider approval of a Minnesota Lawful Gambling LG220 Application for Exempt Permit with no Waiting Period submitted by St. Joseph Catholic Church for August 7, 2022 for their summer festival.
6. Approve Resolution 2022-26 accepting a letter of resignation from Public Works Supervisor Chase Graba effective as May 15 th and might be able to stay a little longer until the ponds are pumped out.
7. Approved a One (1) to Four (4) day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Bertha Firemen’s Relief Assoc. at the Tractor Pull area on Saturday, July 9, 2022 for the tractor pull event at the Bertha Days Summer Festival.

***7. Consider Business***

***A. Broadband Communications –*** Member Hoffman was unable to attend the meeting and stated the county has pledged $20,000.00 in support of the project.

***B. Small Cities Development Program –*** the Special Kickoff meeting was well attended by both the Cities of Hewitt and Bertha. The grant administrator has received 12 applications back from interested owners.

**C.** Resolution 2022-27 (Rate adjustment for water/sewer user fee) has been tabled at this time the council felt the users are having a hard time now. It was suggested to put signs up to encourage residents to come to the June meeting to discuss this topic or contact a councilmember .

***8. Committee Reports***

***A. Public Works Supervisor Options -*** the city did not receive any applications for the position of Public Works Supervisor. The position will be advertised again. Clerk Umland will contact area cities to see what they pay their employees. Mike Hubner, Advanced Utility Solutions, provided the council with information on the programs they provide for cities. The company provides on job mentorship program to help train new personnel in. AUS provides water/wastewater contract operations and assistance throughout Minnesota. They curtail their services to fit the city operational needs. Mr. Graba gave him a site tour of the wastewater treatment facilty, he roughly estimate, if current staff continues operations, approximately 5-15 hours per week of licensures requirements. The current billable rates are $65.00 standard working hours, $98.00 per hour for after office and emergency hours and $130.00 per hour for holiday hours. Motion by Member Nelson, seconded by Member Winkler to have Advanced Utility Solutions draw up a legal contract for $850.00 per month for services .Carried. The contract will be signed by mayor and city clerk.

***9. Correspondence/Meeting/Conference***

***A.*** Solar Panels – no new information

**B.** Long Prairie Sanitation sent correspondence that as of June 1st they will be adding a fuel surcharge to all residential and commercial accounts. Per the contract, Section 9, they are required to give the city 30 day notice of any increase to the customer bill. The fuel surcharge is only temporary. Residential customers will be charged $1.00 extra each month and 5% increase to all commercial accounts.

**C.** Lead & Copper Rule Revision – correspondence was provided from Mn Rural that they will be offering Lead & Copper Rule Revision overview training sessions. MN Rural Water is providing webinars and have hired a technical advisor last fall.

The recycle bin will be removed until July 1st to give some time for the ground to dry out. They will get quotes from Braaten to have some fill hauled in. Prior to adjournment , Motion by Nelson, seconded by Member Captain to issue $250.00 bonus check to all EMT in good standing who have qualified according to Director Hansen. Carried with Hoffman and Winkler abstaining. The EMT must have attended the complete refresher class, on the regular schedule taking shifts and not casual.

***10 Adjournment***

There was no further business to come before the City Council. Member Captain moved; Member Hoffman seconded the motion to adjourn. With all members in favor, motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.